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11 October 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Support)

SUBJECT: Code of Conduct for Prisoners of War

REFERENCE: Memorandum from ADD/S to D/Pers,
dated 8 September 1955, subject
same as above

1. Referenced memorandum transmitted to this Office certain background material on the Code of Conduct for members of the United States Armed Forces as proposed by the Secretary of Defense and approved by the President. That memorandum also directed that I work out a recommended Agency policy statement on that subject with the Deputy Director (Plans) and other offices of interest.

2. A conference was convened on 4 October 1955 with the individuals concurring hereto in attendance. The present Code of Conduct for members of the Armed Forces was reviewed in some detail and the various conditions peculiar to Agency operations were compared with conditions existing in the Armed Forces. This group agrees with the feeling expressed by the ADD/S "... that the Agency cannot adopt the language of the Code as is...."

3. The DD/P specifically the [REDACTED] organization, in conjunction with the CI Staff and the Office of Security, and the Office of Training are still engaged in the collection of detailed factual data on this subject through intensive debriefings of returnees from Communist control and study of interrogation techniques, lines of questioning, etc., employed against persons suspected of affiliation with the American Intelligence Service. It is the feeling of the group convened that until these debriefings can be thoroughly analyzed, it would be premature for the Agency to attempt to announce principles of conduct or to establish special courses of training directed toward such principles of conduct.

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4. However, it is the opinion of the group that certain principles of conduct will be found to be basic, regardless of the particular circumstances attendant upon the detention of any given individual. They are:

a. No employee will take an undue risk of capture except as directed by a competent supervisor.

b. An employee will take every possible action to evade or avoid capture.

c. If captured, an employee will use every means at his disposal to avoid giving any information of value to the enemy.

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e. The Agency will exert every possible effort to obtain the release of captured persons.

5. It became apparent to the group convened that the Office of Training would play a major role in indoctrinating Agency personnel in these principles of conduct in order that they may be prepared to meet this new condition to which they might possibly become exposed. That Office and other offices of possible interest will be asked to meet with the group in subsequent sessions on this subject.

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6. We shall bring this matter to a conclusion as early as possible.

SIGNED

HARRISON G. REYNOLDS
Director of Personnel

CONCUR

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 Inspector General Office of Security

25X1A9a /s/ [REDACTED] 25X1A9a
 Office of General Counsel Technical Services Staff

/s/ [REDACTED] 25X1A9a
Counter-Intelligence Staff,
Deputy Director (Plans)

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